

Pow Wow Planned April 14 on SWOSU Campus

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An annual event celebrating education and culture will take place Saturday, April 14, when the H.O.P.E. student organization at Southwestern Oklahoma State University hosts the Native American Alumni Pow Wow on the Weatherford campus.

The event honors alumni from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College and SWOSU. H.O.P.E. President Ovita Lira said the purpose of the event is to bring people together to dance, sing, socialize and generally have a good time. Alumni from across the state will join the current student population to offer support and inspiration for future endeavors. Not only is the Pow Wow a student celebration but a great history lesson for the community.

The Pow Wow will kick off with gourd dancing and specials at 1 p.m. in the Wellness Center on the SWOSU campus. There will be a supper break at 5:30 p.m. Matt and Edmond Hamilton will provide flute music and storytelling at 6:15 p.m. with the main event starting at 7 p.m. with the Grand Entry, when all dancers line up to enter the arena as a special song is sung by the head singer.

The honored Head Staff includes: Jim Anque (Kiowa), Kendall Kauley (Cheyenne), Leslie Panana (Cheyenne and Jemez Pueblo), Skyler Reyes (Cheyenne), Brittany Taylor (Cheyenne), Dr. Henrietta Mann (Cheyenne), Governor Janice Prairie Chief-Boss (Cheyenne), Oklahoma City VA Warriors Group Color Guard, and Carol Joyce Bull Coming (Cheyenne). Others will be announced at a later date. H.O.P.E. Club Princess Teyonna Wesel Bear extends a personal invitation to all Royalty.

H.O.P.E. has designated several contests with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards during the evening. The Men and Junior Boys dance contest categories include Fancy Dance, Traditional Dance, Grass and Chicken Dance, and Straight Dance. The Women and Junior Girls dance contest categories include Buckskin, Cloth, Jingle and Fancy Shawl.

A tiny tots category is also slated for the evening highlighting children 0-5 years. A drum contest will climax the event.

The public is invited to all events. For further information, please contact Lira at oveta.lira@yahoo.com or the CATC administrative offices at 580.774.3742. Arts and crafts vendors are welcome to attend subject to approval by H.O.P.E.